

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 9, 10, 16-18 and 20-22 remain pending in this application, with claims 1, 9, 10, 16 and 18 being independent. Claims 1, 9, 10, 16 and 18 have been amended.

Claims 1, 9, 10, 16-18 and 20-22 stand rejected over 35 USC 112, second paragraph. The claims have been amended, as suggested by the Examiner, to further clarify them.

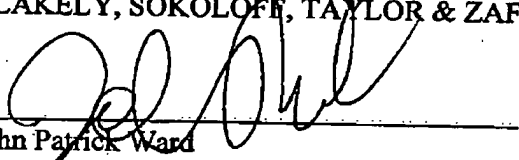
For the reasons noted above, all pending claims are in condition for allowance. It is respectfully submitted that in view of the amendments set forth herein, the applicable rejections have been overcome. Favorable action is respectfully solicited. Allowance of the Claims is respectfully requested.

Please charge any additional charges to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Dated: December 13, 2004


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